

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01 /195 W

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R 240800Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6648

INFO AMEMBASSY WIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 1485

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2191

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SG, NG

SUBJ: SENEGALESE REACTION TO NIGER COUP

REF: A. STATE 078189; B. DAKAR 2108 (NOTAL);

C. DAKAR 2040 (NOTAL)

1. ALTHOUGH NOT SAYING SO PUBLICLY, PRESIDENT SENGHOR
AND GOS LEADERS CLEARLY REGRET OCCURRENCE OF COUP IN
NIAMEY AND DWINDLING NUMBER CIVILIAN GOVTS IN WEST AFRICA.

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NEVERTHELESS SENGHOR APPRECIATES REALITIES OF

SITUATION. SENEGAL, AS HIS PRESS SPOKESMAN STATE,
RECOGNIZES STATES NOT GOVERNMENTS.

2. TONE OF PRESS COVERAGE HERE INDICATIVE LACK OF
ENTHUSIASM FOR COUP. HOWEVER, PRESS HAS REFRAINED FROM
ANY CRITICISM WHICH LIKELY OFFEND NEW NIGER GOVT.
SEMI-OFFICIAL LE SOLEIL WAS QUICK TO RBDALL ON MORROW OF
COUP MODERATION, INTERNATIONAL STATURE, AND DEVOTION TO
AFRICAN INTERESTS OF PRESIDENT DIORI. IN SUBSEQUENT DAYS,
IT HIGHLIGHTED CRITICAL COMMENTS MADE BY LIBERIANS,
MOROCCANS AND OCAM SEC GEN FALILOU KANE. LE SOLEIL ALSO IN-
DICATED SOME APPREHENSION OVER EFFECT COUP MAY HAVE ON
CEAO. AT SAME TIME, PRESS IN REPORTING MILITARY TAKEOVER HAS
OTHERWISE CONFINED ITSELF TO FACTUAL ACCOUNT AND HAS GIVEN
SPACE TO STATEMENTS OF COUP LEADERS INCLUDING THEIR REASONS
FOR WISHING OVERTHROW DIORI, THAT IS, TO ELIMINATE
CORRUPTION AND IMPROVE DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORTS.

3. PRESIDENT SENGHOR TOLD AMBASSADOR (REFERENCE) THAT HE
ATTRIBUTED DIORI'S DOWNFALL TO LACK OF SKILL IN MAINTAINING
CONTROL OVER MILITARY LEADERSHIP. HE WENT ON TO PRAISE OAU
PRESIDENT GOWON'S INITIATIVE IN ASKING NEW NIGER REGIME
TO GUARANTEE SAFETY OF EX- NIGER PRESIDENT. REFTEL C
REPORTED MIN INFORMATION REMARKS DEPLORING THE "INSTABILITY
OF AFRICAN STATES" BUT REAFFIRMING SENEGAL'S POLICY OF NON-

INTERVENTION, IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS.
AGGREY

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